(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Sukha Deo Thorat, Chairman, University Grants Commission to look into the complaints on the alleged harassment of SC/ST students in All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Rise of Respiratory Diseases due to Pollution

347. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi's pollution levels may have reportedly gone down, but cases of asthma especially among children continue to be on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof reported during the last two years, hospital-wise in Delhi;

(c) whether the aerated drinks, junk foods, fast foods, potato chips, ice-cream and some other items are adding the woes of the children and their parents;

(d) if so, what steps Government would take to ban such items in Delhi to save the young children from these clutches; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to improve the quality life of students especially Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research has reported that there is no direct evidence to suggest that air pollution by itself can be the cause of asthma. Allergents like pollen,house dust and certain food articles can however, trigger of asthma attacks. As asthma is not a notifiable disease, data relating to morbidity due to asthma is not maintained.

(c) to (e) Though there is a growing interest for processed food including junk food, aerated drinks, however the Government ensures quality standards of various food items including ice-cream, aerated drinks etc. through the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) rules.